

REMARKS

Applicant replies to the Office Action mailed on March 13, 2006. Applicant requests a two month extension of time to reply. Claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24, and 27-29 are pending in this application and the Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24, and 27-29. Support for the amendments may be found in the originally-filed specification, claims, and figures. No new matter has been introduced by these amendments. Reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 10-17, 20-24 and 27-29, subject to the requested terminal disclaimer.

Rejection to Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

The Examiner rejects pending claims 1-7 as being unpatentable over Cassell, U.S. Patent number 4,155,970 ("Cassell"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Cassell generally discloses a manufacturing method which is limited to surrounding a lead mandrel with a heat shrinkable Teflon. Fiber glass or fused silica may then be wound around the Teflon or slipped over the Teflon in a sleeve form. Significantly, the process requires holes to be drilled in the radome structure in an effort to melt out the lead from the tubes.

Such a drilling process would literally destroy the intended functionality of the presently claimed invention. Particularly, the item to be covered in the present invention is a functional and aesthetic article (e.g. vehicle, boat, jetski, waverunner, watercraft, car, electronic device, avionic, navigation device, or barbeque), so drilling a hole in such an article may destroy the engine or other electrical component, along with damaging the integrity and aesthetics of the article. Moreover, melting any component from the presently claimed article would also literally destroy the functionality because the melting process would cause the melted component to drip over the article which may damage the outer shell and leak into the mechanics or electronics. A significant advantage of the present invention is that the article to be covered is not damaged or sacrificed in any way during the unique cover making method.

Furthermore, the Cassell method retains the heat shrinkable Teflon as part of the end product. In contrast, the presently claimed invention only uses its heat shrinkable material as a

temporary part of the process that is removed at the end of the process (“removing said fitted cover from said at least a portion of said article”).

The Cassell method also retains a permanent adhesion between the fiberglass or silica resin, and the Teflon shrinkable material, while the original article (lead mandrel) is melted away. In contrast, the presently claimed invention enables the molded cover to be removed from the article and placed back onto the article (“after said layer of molding material sufficiently hardens, removing said layer of molding material from said fitted cover such that said layer of molding material is configured as a negative impression of said at least a portion of said article. . . enabling said hardened layer of molding material to be removably placed over said at least a portion of said article”).

As such, Cassell does not disclose or teach at least (i) “after said layer of molding material sufficiently hardens, removing said layer of molding material from said fitted cover such that said layer of molding material is configured as a negative impression of said at least a portion of said article”; (ii) “removing said fitted cover from said at least a portion of said article”; or, (iii) “enabling said hardened layer of molding material to be removably placed over said at least a portion of said article,” as recited by independent claim 1.

Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1, so Applicant asserts that claims 2-7 are differentiated from the cited reference for at least the same reasons as set forth above, in addition to their own respective features.

For the reasons set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw the rejection of claims 1-7 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a).

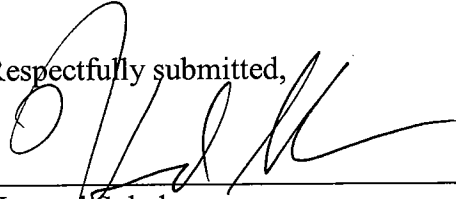
Non-statutory Obviousness-type Double Patenting Rejection

The Examiner next rejects claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24 and 27-29 as constituting a non-statutory obviousness-type double patenting over claims 1-8 of U.S. Patent number 6,881,370. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. However, to expedite prosecution of this matter, Applicant submits the attached terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 C.F.R. 1.321. As such, Applicant requests the withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-7, 10-17, 20-24 and 27-29.

Applicant submits that the application is now in condition for allowance and earnestly requests a Notice of Allowance. Should the Examiner wish to discuss any of the above in greater detail, then the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the Examiner’s convenience.

Applicants authorize and respectfully request that any fees due be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-2814.

Respectfully submitted,



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